



NEWS ADVISORY

April 27, 2023

For immediate release

Missoula City Council members' statement in support of Rep. Zephyr

Ten members of the Missoula City Council issued a statement in support of Rep. Zoey Zephyr on Thursday afternoon:

As elected officials we stand in support of Representative Zoey Zephyr. In the past week, the Montana Legislature's actions to silence Representative Zephyr have been immoral and anti-democratic. Using the power of the majority to censor the minority is exactly what our democracy seeks to prohibit. Representative Zephyr's lived experience and steadfast commitment to those she represents is being attacked by this legislature.

Further, any perceived issue of decorum has long since been eclipsed by the extreme heavy handedness in punishing Representative Zephyr. Representative Zephyr carries the voice of those who elected her to represent them in this 68th legislative session. Representative Zephyr should be able to speak and vote on the floor of the House. We urge the legislature to reinstitute Representative Zephyr and put Montana on the right side of history.

Signed by City Councilors:

Stacie Anderson
Mirtha Becerra
Daniel Carlino
Sierra Farmer
Gwen Jones
Kristen Jordan
Mike Nugent
Jennifer Savage
Amber Sherrill
Heidi West

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City Clerk Staff

From: Ginny Merriam
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 4:42 PM
To: afranz; Amy Hanson; Andy Schultz; Anne Hughes; Ashley Brittner Wells (she/her); Aubrey Nilsen; Becky Goodrich; Betsy Willett; Brad Davis; Bret Serbin; Carol Blodgett; Cary Shimek; Cathy Janney; Charity Stubb; Cheryl Schatz; Chris Wolfe; Corena Maurer; David Erickson; Dennis Bragg; Dominic Vitiello; Don Whalen; Ed Nesselroad (pentoad@aol.com); Ginny Merriam; Gordy Hughes; Grp. PD Administration; Heather Adams; Heidi Bakula (she, hers); Heidi Meili; Heidi Starrett; Jessica Miller; Jordan Hess; Josh Burnham; Kalina Pritchard (she/her); Karen Gasvoda; KECI NEWS DIRECTOR; Keila Szpaller; Kelly Elam; Kevin Slovarp; KGVO (kgvnewsroom@townsquaremedia.com); KPAX NEWS DIRECTOR (news@kpax.com); KTMF NEWS DIRECTOR (newsroom@abcfoxmontana.com); KUFM ASSISTANT NEWS DIRECTOR (edward.obrien@umontana.edu); KUFM NEWS DIRECTOR (sally.mauk@umontana.edu); Laura Zuckerman; Staci Shepard; Logan McInnis; Lori Hart; Lori Hudak; Lydia Arnold; Maci MacPherson; Madeline Broom; Maritsa Georgiou; Martin Kidston; Marty Rehbein; MCAT NEWS DIRECTOR (jbaird@mcate.org); Melissa Rafferty; missoulacommunityradio@gmail.com; MISSOULIAN NEWS EDITOR (newsdesk@missoulia.com); Nick Chrestenson; Paul Hamby; Peter Christian (peterc@centric.net); Rick Sanders; Rob Chaney; Ross Mollenhauer; Sarah Bell; Seaborn Larson; Seeley Swan Pathfinder; Sheila Callahan; Sherry Devlin; Teresa Waldorf; Tom Bauer; Willy Miller; Zoe Buchli
Cc: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Aaron Wilson; Alicia Vanderheiden; Angela Simonson; Annie Gorski; Brian Hensel; Cage Urquhart; Dale Bickell; Donna Gaukler; D'Shane Barnett; Ellen Buchanan; Eran Pehan; Eric Hallstrom; Ian Ortlieb; Jeremy Keene; Jil Dunn; Jim Nugent; John Adams; Jordan Hess; Katie Emery (She/Her); Kelleen Roseboom (she/her); Kirsten Hands; Laurie Clark; Lee Macholz; Leigh Griffing; Matthew Lawson; Megan Smith; Mike Brady; Mike Colyer; Montana James (she/her); Ryan Applegate; Scot Colwell; Walter Banziger
Subject: City Council members' statement on Rep. Zephyr
Attachments: City Council statement Zephyr 230427.pdf

Dear news professionals,

Attached is a statement from 10 Missoula City Council members supporting state Rep. Zooley Zephyr.

Ginny Merriam
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City Clerk Staff

From: Andrew Bancale <23banand@student.valleychristian.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 11:34 AM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Abortion

Hello, Missoula council members, I am a Montana citizen and voted for the first time in the last election. I voted YES on the "Born Alive" measure and was very disappointed when it did not pass. I am a firm believer that a human life is sacred and starts at conception. It was further disappointing to see when the Montana Supreme court decided that an abortion was a right under privacy laws.

It is not lawful in this state to end the life of another human being, but that is just what we are doing when an abortion takes place. If someone went to a hospital asking to have their arm removed because they decided they do not want it they would be put under self harm observation. If a doctor had assisted them in doing so their medical license would be revoked. We here are not talking of a single limb however but a human life.

I understand that you may not agree that a human life starts at conception. According to our state laws a human life starts at 20 weeks, as it has been decided that is when a baby can feel pain. 50-20-603 1b. However in other states in the US it is considered around 5 weeks when a heartbeat is detected that a life begins. The point at which life begins is therefore contested. I and many others hold to the idea that life begins at conception this view is even less popular. With advancement of medical technology we discovered the heartbeat and nerve cells so early but in the past we had no such thing to detect it. We now still have little understanding of the start of human life. We should not discount a life then no matter how young.

I was educated in Montana public schools where they teach that any and all promiscuous behavior was acceptable and it was a form of "self love." I saw first hand the consequences of that education where peers were involved in much more serious relationships than they were ready for. They were not encouraged to get married or wait for marriage to make such decisions. This had a huge impact on myself in my own life and that of my peers. We were taught how to have "safe" sex but not how to have the proper relationship to facilitate it. We were taught about STDs and pregnancy as a result of "unsafe" sex but not that the reason that these were such big issues in the world today was because of the encouragement of sex outside of marriage.

Common arguments for abortion is that if a woman isn't allowed to get one then she is being "forced" to have the baby. Such a notion is ridiculous, in the majority of abortion cases the woman chooses herself to participate in actions she knew could lead to a pregnancy. They had the opportunity to make more responsible choices and they did not. The idea in our society that you can be promiscuous and "do whatever you want with whoever you want" has led the US down a dark path. It has led us to a place of depravity in our society. Not having to deal with the "consequences" of your actions has led to the murder of over 60 million babies in the US since 1973.

As my legislator I ask that you represent me by moving to ban abortion in the state of Montana. As well as regulating sex "education" in a way that not only teaches how to have sex, but how to have a healthy relationship and relay the magnitude of what is really happening. Pushing children to have intercourse with one another and "learn about themselves" is not something that should be acceptable, much less the standard.

Your constituent,
Andrew Bancale